

The Baptist Record

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Mississippians join team for Uptown women's week

By Anne W. McWilliams

Glass-encrusted towers of Chicago's magnificent skyline glittered in the sunset. Boat riders rocking on darkening blue waves of Lake Michigan would never have guessed, had they not known, that behind the facade festered pockets of poverty and crime.

In one such place, not far from the lakeshore, is Uptown Baptist Church, in an area of faded grandeur. July 24-30 a volunteer team of 20 women, Woman's Missionary Union partners from Mississippi and Illinois, led in a special series of activities for women of Uptown. In a kick-off for missions, a chief goal was to inspire Uptown women to organize their own WMU.

This team directed by Evelyn Tully, executive director of Illinois WMU, and coordinated by

tal, physical, spiritual. Other seminars centered on ways a woman of God can make a difference in her world — at work, at home, in her neighborhood. For instance, Boyd said a woman can make a difference at school by praying for her child's teacher and by selecting at least three of her child's fellow students to pray for daily.

Besides the Baptist Women, six Illinois Acteen Activators, with two of their leaders, joined the group to direct children's activities.

The church's grey stone building, bought from another denomination in 1981, has become a haven for five groups that people the area: senior citizens in retirement homes; single parent homes; street people (prostitutes, homeless, gangs); ethnic communities, such as Mexicans, Russians, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Cambodians; and the mentally challenged who live in halfway houses.

Though a constituted church, Uptown operates much like an inner city mission. Credits for its programs go to the Home Mission Board, SBC; the Chicago Metro Baptist Association; former pastor Jim Queen (there's no new pastor yet); college students; summer missionaries (12 this year); dedicated staffers; and volunteers from local churches across the nation.

In the midst of diversity, the members have a bond, their love for Christ. During Sunday School July 25, a black woman arrived very late, saying she had been robbed the night before. A class member seated by her (a white woman, a partially disabled senior citizen) hugged her. Then she opened her food stamp book, took out one stamp to keep for herself and gave all the rest to the victim of theft.

Mission action projects the WMU team undertook included redecorating the church parlor; cooking supper for several hundred homeless people; serving supper for the church staff; making curtains for the church nursery; demonstrating easy crafts to residents of Somerset, halfway house for the mentally ill; and leading Bible study and special music at Lawrence House, a retirement home.

A woman's touch transformed the drab, junk-filled parlor into a place of beauty. Scrubbing walls and windows set the scene for a wallpaper border. An ancient fireplace was painted rose; its alcove became a library by addition of bookshelves and a blue-flowered curtain swag to match new covers on two accent tables.

Under direction of Judy Goodall of Belvidere, Ill., 600 homeless got a meal of tuna noodle casserole, green beans, and cherry cobbler. To feed the homeless has become a tradition at Uptown. As one writer put it, "The church desires for all to feel welcome, no matter what they look like — or smell like...."

WMU volunteers, perspiration dripping from eyebrows and chins in the unairconditioned building, stacked supplies onto pantry shelves.

As for results of classes and seminars, observations of the four Mississippians indicate they reached goals to witness to, to befriend, to pray with, and to encourage women of Uptown.

Velma Morrison, who taught a class in sewing, said, "My most memorable experience was seeing Virginia finish her apron and model it along with the others." Despite being handicapped and without full use of legs, arms, and

For Deena Boyd, the week's highlight was hearing of one woman's gift to a friend: a memo-magnet reading, "Jesus Loves You." The friend asked, "Who is Jesus?" and an opportunity to witness was born.



Anne McWilliams of Clinton, second from left, and Velma Morrison, far left, lead a small group seminar for women of Uptown Baptist Church, Chicago.

hands, Virginia, one of the church's most faithful members, showed persistence. With Velma's help at pinning and in other ways, she daily improved as a seamstress.

Deena Boyd, who taught cake decorating, also directed the making of memo-magnets, one of which proclaimed "Jesus Loves You." For Deena, the week's highlight: Spanish-speaking woman who made a memo-magnet gave it to a friend who asked the meaning of the English words and then asked, "Who is Jesus?" This led to an opportunity for witness.

For Ann Maniscalco, who taught fancy candy making, the most unforgettable event came at a mid-week lunch prepared by Mexican women. Seated at a table with several of the Mexicans, Ann

could tell that one was witnessing to another. Though Ann did not fully understand the Spanish words they were saying, she could see by the woman's tears that her heart had been touched. Just then, a talented black woman, Ethel Middleton, sang "His Eye Is on the Sparrow." Then Ann, knowing the Spanish woman was under deep conviction, led her to the kitchen for more privacy, and talked with her in English. The woman prayed to receive Jesus.

When Anne McWilliams led a Bible study on "Women of God Make a Difference," she told the story of a Jackson woman who prayed 25 years for an unbelieving husband before he became a believer. Afterward, a Cambodian woman came to her tearfully saying, "I have prayed and prayed for my husband, but the devil has him bound. I cannot stay with him longer." She said he had taken all her money to spend on his "girl friend." Now she and her daughter had no money, no place to go. She asked for prayer for guidance. A little circle of women prayed with her in English, Vietnamese, and Cambodian, and promised to continue to remember her in prayer.

Mindy Cobb served as liaison between the church and the volunteer team. Her husband, Lindsay Cobb, is an area missionary working with Asian congregations. It was he who nine years ago came up with the idea of inviting WMU teams to Uptown.

At least 65 women enrolled for the week's activities; Mindy said that she hopes with this number a WMU organization at Uptown can become a reality.

McWilliams is former associate editor, BAPTIST RECORD.



Velma Morrison of Poplarville, right, helps Virginia, a member of Uptown Baptist Church, Chicago, learn to sew. (Photos courtesy of Evelyn Tully)

Becky Belt of Marion, Ill., was one of 15 volunteer groups working this summer at Uptown.

One of four Mississippians on the team, Deena Boyd of Brandon, member of First Church, Jackson, flew to Chicago. Three others — Ann Maniscalco, First Church, Ocean Springs; Velma Morrison, First Church, Poplarville; and Anne McWilliams, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton — traveled by Am-Trak.

On the theme, "Women of God," the team taught creative classes in flower arranging, children's art projects, sewing, cake decorating, first aid, cooking, easy crafts, and fancy candy making. They led seminars and Bible studies dealing with growth in all areas of a woman of God's life — men-



Ann Maniscalco of Ocean Springs, center, records blood pressure readings taken by Regina Owens, coordinator of the Illinois Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The new religion

Some call it humanism. Adjectives such as "secular" or "religious" may further define it. Humanism should not be confused with humaneness; in fact, it could be one of the most inhumane philosophies to cross the human mind.

According to this new religion, man supposedly has within himself resources to solve his problems. He needs no help from God or any supernatural power or person. It is anti-God; happiness is said to be the main goal.

Humanism applauds legalized abortion, euthanasia (mercy killing), genetic engineering, selected birth control, and the acceptance of homosexuality and suicide. In *Four Trojan Horses of Humanism*, Harry Conn mentions John Dewey, B.F. Skinner, and Julian Huxley as proponents of *Humanist Manifestos I* (1933) and *II* (1973). These two documents may be shaping America's mind in 1993. It contains choice lines like, "As non-theists, we begin with humans, not God;

nature, not deity;" or, "Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological sanction."

Conn declares that humanism is in the public schools, that it is called "value education," and that many new teachers are willing to support it, since they are at odds with traditional Judeo-Christian ethics.

Simon, Howe, and Kirchenbaum, in *Value Education: A Handbook of Practical Strategies for Teachers and Students*, explain that young people brought up by moralizing adults are not prepared to make their own choices about what they want to believe. Since this moralizing produces guilt feelings in children, we should abolish the "Christian myth" of sin and salvation, and let sex education tell them sex is for fun and this life is all there is. There is nothing after death, they propose.

Humanism has not only invaded schools, but politics and the church as well. Laws are promulgated to advance it. With happiness as its

goal (forget the glorifying of God), a theology is promoted to humanize God and deify man. Liberal theology says, "Amen," to this, declaring that we cannot be sure of any life after death.

How do we resist such philosophies? Must we now apologize for being Christian, or having a standard of morality? There is almost an anti-Christian crusade in the media. One talk show guest recently commented, "I was brought up to be Christian, but of course, I'm not one now." Can the church counteract 40 hours of a school's humanistic teaching in one hour on Sunday?

Stay with the basics. Christ can deliver men from guilt and the power of sin. Repentance leads to cleansing of the heart and head, and then leads to obedience. Psalm 23 is the same today in leading, feeding, and restoration. 1 John 1:9 says, "He is faithful and just to forgive us," and gives us eternal life. Compare the life and the outcome of Christianity with the life and outcome of humanism.

Guest opinion...

Personalized giving: Promise or threat?

Personalized giving appears to be a phrase and a phase whose time has come, as the Foreign and Home Mission Boards seek ways to attract more of the money Southern Baptists give to other mission groups more effectively personalizing their work to donors.

Missouri Baptist leaders believe the trend, which involves asking specific churches to fund specific projects, is a cause for concern because of potential negative effects on Cooperative Program giving.

FMB administrators say untold millions of Southern Baptist dollars find their way into foreign mission efforts operating outside denominational channels. An action at the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention in Houston has added momentum to existing efforts by the board to attract that revenue into denominational missions and involve a wider number of Southern Baptists in foreign missions.

Recommendation 19, passed by SBC messengers in June, asked both the Home and Foreign Mission Boards to design a way churches can support annual mission offerings by funding specific projects. The request, which FMB leaders will respond to after the study, is part of a plan to re-accelerate the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust to reach the world for Jesus Christ by the year 2000.

"I think it is both unwise and unnecessary for the Foreign Mission Board or any other agency to take this approach of going to the churches directly for funding," Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director Donald Wideman said.

Though personalized giving may appear a quick and ready source of extra funding, Wideman added, "It will ultimately lead to further decline in the Cooperative Program and perhaps thus to further disintegration of the Southern Baptist Convention."

MBC church services Division Director Larry Thomas agreed.

"There's a need to personalize missions, but I can't believe it needs to be to the extent that we adopt a specific project to do it," Thomas said.

Not long ago, Southern Baptists gave money simply because they believed in missions and trusted the denomination to do it. Many still do; many others, reflecting trends shown by an increasing number of modern-day donors, want to give for projects they can see and touch.

This shift is seen in the decline of Lottie Moon revenues — down two of the last three years. Cooperative Program receipts also have fallen the past two years. Thus, spending power has suffered a hit.

The shame of it all, FMB leaders

say, is that it doesn't have to happen. "Potential resources are unlimited," said David Coleman, the board's director of development.

Many won't automatically give to SBC missions any more, Coleman said. "They will give because we're a worthy work sharing the gospel. They want a personal involvement and information about what's going on with their money."

Last year, Coleman worked with Second Church, Houston, to increase its Lottie Moon giving about 65% — to \$164,860 — by identifying specific projects for which various groups in the church raised money. The church also gave another \$358,600 for high-priority needs the board had not had the funds to budget. FMB administrators know the danger of Southern Baptists at home determining what missionaries can do by giving money only for specific uses. Most Southern Baptists tend to give generously when they see a need firsthand. But they're often unaware of the scope of missions needs and tend to zero in on high-profile causes at the expense of other important work.

Wideman made a dire prediction: "Giving permission to the Foreign Mission Board and/or the Home Mission Board to make direct approaches to the churches will produce great competition

HELPING TO RUIN THE YOUTH OF OUR NATION

THE FRAGMENTS

Youths on the march

"A spirituality that does not lead to active ministry becomes an indulgent preoccupation with self, and therefore grieves the Holy Spirit," said author Maxie Dunnam.

Youths are often in the news, but mostly for the wrong reason. Christian youths are leaders and are showing the way. However, the media is so engrossed with waywardness they will overlook 20,000 kids in a stadium rally for Christ and zero in on a robbery.

Such was the case July 30. That Friday night, an estimated 18,000 kids gathered at Memorial Stadium in Jackson to hear the gospel in songs and sermon. The local papers never mentioned it on Saturday or Sunday, nor any time

since. A clean sheet of paper draws few comments, but a clean sheet of paper with a spot on it will bring forth comments galore.

In *Something Beautiful for God*, Mother Teresa said, "There is too much talk... take a broom and clean someone's house. That says enough."

Meeting, gathering, worship is not enough. Youths want to add some activity.

World Changers were active the first week in August, in Clarksdale (Baptist Record, Aug. 12). There are plans for "See You at the Pole" prayer meetings in a few weeks. Such spiritual activities springing from our youths are indeed encouraging.

— GH

between the agencies who will clamor for the same opportunity and there will be a return to the societal method of funding. The result will be the 'survival of the fittest,'" he said. "Many smaller and less popular entities will not be able to compete in that environment."

Home Mission Board officials have mixed reactions to recommendation 19.

"We're excited about the renewed interest in Bold Mission Thrust and that the convention has asked the two mission boards to take a major role in accomplishing its goals," said Larry Lewis, HMB president, concerning the purpose of recommendation 19.

"We are already discussing ways to match churches with specific

projects which are part of our plan for reaching our nation for Christ. We have responded on an individual basis in the past but have not had a system to do large numbers of churches. We do plan to work with churches that wish to make their gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering more personal."

Thomas described personalized giving as "selfish giving — the person involved that way is controlling their money."

"I think that's fallen into an attitude of 'me-ism' — 'We'll support only that which we feel good about,'" Thomas said. "I still believe the best way for us to do our total missions program is Cooperative Program."

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Editor.....Guy Henderson
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer.....Teresa Dickens
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey
Layout/News writer.....Shannon Simpson
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

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MC's trustee chairman: "Full disclosure as soon as possible"

Harry Vickery, chairman of the board of trustees for Mississippi College; Rory Lee, acting president of the college; and Allen Perry, school attorney, gave a report to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Aug. 23 in Jackson.

Members of the press were excluded from the meeting. However, after the meeting Vickery

granted the Baptist Record the following interview:

BR: MC is bringing a lawsuit against Lewis Nobles. What are the details?

Vickery: Nobles first brought suit against MC to recover certain documents. MC then filed a suit against Nobles to recover documents and funds.

BR: Exactly what are the

charges against Nobles?

Vickery: Basically, they are listed as fraud, conversion and embezzlement of MC property, and a breach of Nobles' fiduciary duties to the college in his capacity as an officer of the school.

BR: Are there others implicated? How could the college let this happen?

Vickery: This is still under

investigation, but there are none we know about. The college had great trust in Nobles.

Just as a pastor may have received private donations with a "use as needed" word, so do college presidents.

BR: I understand it is a federal case now. Explain the difference between a civil suit and a criminal suit.

Vickery: The civil suit was filed by MC to recover documents and funds. However, MC is not a party in the federal case. In effect, all funds are frozen by the federal court. After the trial MC can file to have those funds restored.

BR: Any ideas where the alleged \$3,000,000 is?

Vickery: Of course, that is under investigation and we hope

to recover it.

BR: Financially, the college is okay?

Vickery: MC is sound financially. It has operated "in the black" for 61 years. This money is money which never got into college treasury.

BR: Were any donations intended for Clarke College?

Vickery: None. Each donor and gift has been researched to the best of our knowledge. If you know of one, please contact our attorney or me.

Let me say we will make a full disclosure as soon as possible. It is not by choice we delay our report but we need to make sure that Mississippi College and Nobles will be protected prior to trial.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Convention Board approves 1994 CP budget

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting in Jackson Aug. 23 approved a 1994 Cooperative Program budget of \$22,452,000, a duplicate of the 1993 budget. Members also heard a report on the special committee on Clarke College property, made policy changes, and heard a confidential report from Mississippi College trustees, during which the press was excluded.

The budget committee kept the income estimate at the 1993 level

because of predictions that the 1993 budget may be as much as \$847,000 short. Keeping the money the same meant keeping the percentage going to SBC causes outside the state at 37%, or \$8,307,240.

The budget, which goes to messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November for final approval, survived an amendment attempt from the floor by board member Joe Strahan.

Four convention board depart-

ments are expected to have smaller expenses due to retirements or, in the case of Gulfshore, some expenses will be borne by use of the facility by the Centrifuge program of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Those monies, totaling \$105,920, the budget committee recommended, should go to convention board staff as 2% cost of living raises.

Strahan proposed that instead of giving that money to employees, it

should go to SBC causes, increasing that percentage to 37.47% of the total budget.

After discussion, the amendment gained a handful of votes. And the original budget was passed without opposition.

Chairman of the Clarke special committee, Larry Otis of Tupelo, reported that the title to the Clarke College property is in the hands of the convention board. A title search is being conducted and all residential property on the Newton campus is under short term rental.

Otis said that "the committee has locked all of the educational buildings and instructed the caretaker not to allow any access to any property, or removal of any property without written approval of the convention office."

Proposals have been slow in coming in, said Otis. "As a result,

the committee extended the time for receiving proposals until an appropriate number or quality appears."

The board approved policy changes concerning payment of insurance premiums for dependents of retirees or deceased employees having had 10 years of continuous employment. Up to this time, the board paid dependent health insurance for such retirees. After Sept. 15, 1993, new employees will be informed that the board will not pay dependent health insurance under those conditions.

The board also approved inclusion of a sexual harassment policy including ways to file grievances, and approved moving the August board meeting to Tuesday following the fourth Monday instead of on Monday, allowing convenience because of the Sunday schedule of members.

Executive Committee approves two new MBCB employees

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on Monday approved two new staffers for the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department.

The two are Don Hicks who will be preschool and children's Discipleship and church weekday education consultant; and Wes Pegues, who will be youth discipleship and church recreation consultant. The two are slated to begin work on Sept. 7.

Hicks has been minister of education at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, since 1979. He was minister to children at First Church, Montgomery, Ala., 1977-78, and at University Church, Fort Worth, 1972-77. He was pastor of New

Hope Church, Portales, N.M., 1970-71.

A graduate of Eastern New Mexico University, Hicks earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Hicks and his wife, Judy, have four children.

Pegues has been minister to youth and students at First Church, Oxford, since 1991. He was minister of youth and activities at Audubon Park Church, Memphis, 1986-91, and was minister of youth, education, and activities at Second Church, Levelland, Texas, 1983-86. Earlier, he was in insurance sales and was a funeral director. Pegues and his wife, Terri, have three children.

	1993 Budget	1994 request	Percent of total	Dollar increase	Percent increase
Southern Baptist Convention*					
SBC Operating	189,626	189,626	0.84%	0	0.00%
Foreign Mission Board	4,153,619	4,153,619	18.50%	0	0.00%
Home Mission Board	1,624,470	1,624,470	7.24%	0	0.00%
Annuity Board	63,675	63,675	0.28%	0	0.00%
SBC Seminaries	1,683,932	1,683,932	7.50%	0	0.00%
Christian Life Commission	81,168	81,168	0.36%	0	0.00%
Radio-TV Commission	330,042	330,042	1.47%	0	0.00%
Am. Seminary, Foundation, Education, Brotherhood, Historical, Stewardship Commissions	180,709	180,709	0.80%	0	0.00%
Total	8,307,240	8,307,240	37.00%	0	0.00%
Mississippi Institutions and Agencies					
Baptist Children's Village	450,000	450,000	2.00%	0	0.00%
Board of Ministerial Education	175,000	175,000	0.78%	0	0.00%
Christian Action Commission	220,494	220,494	0.98%	0	0.00%
Christian Education	3,730,045	3,730,045	16.61%	0	0.00%
Christian Education Capital Needs	650,000	650,000	2.90%	0	0.00%
Historical Commission	38,521	38,521	0.17%	0	0.00%
Mississippi Baptist Foundation	201,414	201,414	0.90%	0	0.00%
Mississippi Baptist Medical Center	178,000	178,000	0.79%	0	0.00%
Total	5,643,474	5,643,474	25.14%	0	0.00%
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board					
Missions/Church Services					
Associational Administration	98,446	99,699	0.44%	1,253	1.27%
Associational Subsidy	125,000	125,000	0.56%	0	0.00%
Baptist Record	540,320	540,320	2.41%	0	0.00%
Broadcast Services	175,334	178,629	0.80%	3,295	1.88%
Brotherhood	358,989	363,113	1.62%	4,124	1.15%
Business Div/Advt & Pers Services	379,258	380,948	1.70%	1,690	0.45%
Church Administration/Church Building	239,735	235,772	1.05%	(3,963)	(1.65%)
Church Music	320,954	322,281	1.44%	1,327	0.41%
Church/Minister Relations	244,278	251,008	1.12%	6,730	2.76%
Computer Information Services	223,239	230,527	1.03%	7,288	3.26%
Convention & Convention Committees	81,865	81,865	0.36%	0	0.00%
Cooperative Missions	393,903	400,383	1.78%	6,480	1.65%
Discipleship Training	506,414	476,728	2.12%	(29,686)	(5.86%)
Evangelism Promotion	185,027	196,271	0.87%	11,244	6.08%
Executive Director's Office	277,098	281,767	1.25%	4,669	1.68%
Gulfshore Operations	321,211	271,510	1.21%	(49,701)	(15.47%)
Ministry Office	223,557	226,797	1.01%	3,240	1.45%
Office of Communication	247,041	253,237	1.13%	6,196	2.51%
Stewardship	223,651	226,005	1.01%	2,354	1.05%
Student Work	1,102,396	1,139,062	5.07%	36,666	3.33%
Sunday School	521,297	530,661	2.36%	9,364	1.80%
Woman's Missionary Union	523,906	501,336	2.23%	(22,570)	(4.31%)
Youth Night/Youth Weeks	52,700	52,700	0.23%	0	0.00%
Project Funds					
Expanded Church Annuity	650,000	650,000	2.90%	0	0.00%
Board Capital Needs	460,667	460,667	2.05%	0	0.00%
Student Center Capital Needs	25,000	25,000	0.11%	0	0.00%
Partnership Funds	Challenge	Challenge			
Total	8,501,286	8,501,286	37.86%	0	0.00%
Total Cooperative Program Budget	22,452,000	22,452,000	100.00%	0	0.00%

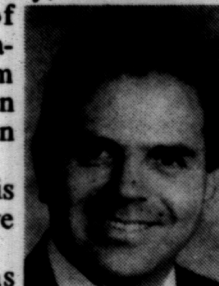
Recommendation 1: That the 1994 Mississippi Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget be set at \$22,452,000, as detailed in the attached budget. This represents a 0.00% increase over the 1993 budget.

Recommendation 2: That a Challenge budget be

set for 1994 which will be for all Cooperative Program funds received above the basic budget. The first \$87,000 received be allocated to Partnership Missions, and all remaining funds be divided evenly between Christian Education and the Southern Baptist Convention.



Hicks



Pegues



LEH, India (BP) — Edward Young, left, a Macon, Ga., internist and member of Ingleside Church there, examines a patient during a medical mission trip to northern India's Himalayan Mountains. Young and other Southern Baptist volunteers set up clinics this summer in areas never touched by the gospel. Sending short-term volunteers is one of Southern Baptists' last means of witness in the mostly-Hindu nation. (Photo by Robert Siddens)

Alaska vols needed NOW

A carpet-layer is needed to complete the education building addition in Valdez, Alaska, the last part of September. The building is otherwise almost complete.

Work teams of any size or skill level are also needed to help Rabbit Creek Church complete its facility. The teams can be used as late as October.

Response to either of these requests may be directed to the Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone (601) 968-3800.

Baptist missionary in India faces medical license hurdle

BANGALORE, India (BP)—The only Southern Baptist missionary living in India again faces the possibility of losing the government's permission to practice medicine in the country.

Missionary Rebekah Naylor of Fort Worth, Texas, has until Sept. 18 to gain renewal of her Indian medical license. She applied June 17 for the renewal but has not received word — and may not until her current permit expires.

If authorities deny renewal she will stop performing surgery and other medical work at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, where she has worked 20 years.

"So far there hasn't been any word on the renewal," she said. "The license to practice medicine has generally not been given to foreigners in the last eight to 10 years. It's very difficult to get. I got it in 1991 after so many problems. And now the renewal is coming up and we have no way of knowing what (government officials) will do."

Based on past experiences in India, the chance of Naylor losing her license is high. India's tight restrictions on licenses, work permits and visas have slashed the Southern Baptist missionary force

from 18 in the 1980s to one — Naylor. Some missionaries work in India as itinerants, moving in and out of the country on a short-term basis, but Naylor is the only resident missionary in the south Asian nation of 897 million people.

In 1991 an Indian medical council said it would not grant Naylor a medical license, which forced her to stop practicing. Several months later, however, Naylor got a two-year license after an appeal that involved a U.S. senator, the Indian ambassador in Washington, and Southern Baptist pastors in Kentucky.

Naylor believes her current renewal is a test that will reveal how difficult the renewal process may be in the future, she said.

"I think this time is the big test to see what they will do," she said. "They have granted it, and if they then renewed it, it would indicate there would be no hesitation to renew it in the future."

The 143-bed Bangalore hospital where Naylor works opened a new outpatient facility in June, following last year's opening of a 25-bed wing to treat patients in private rooms. Patients in private rooms pay higher rates, subsidizing care for people too poor to pay. About

half of the hospital's patients do not pay.

The hospital also has a strong evangelistic witness in Bangalore, a city of 5 million people. In July, for example, hospital staffers helped lead 10 people to profess faith in Christ. The hospital also helped start a church in a nearby village in July; 10 people were baptized.

"To me that's just an example of the effectiveness of medical missions," Naylor said. "People here are responsive and they are open. This is also a reminder of our responsibility. There's so much need and opportunity."

Naylor also sees another India deadline approaching: The beginning of September marks the cut-off for Southern Baptists signing up to participate in India-wide evangelistic crusades in November.

Baptists in India have asked the Foreign Mission Board to send 400 Southern Baptist volunteers to participate in the crusades, which will commemorate pioneer missionary William Carey's arrival in India two centuries ago. However, only about 100 volunteers have signed up, creating staffing problems for the simultaneous evangelistic crusades scheduled in 120 churches.

World Changers volunteer Kraemer has come a long way

By Tim Nicholas

Clyde Kraemer said things fell apart for him in April 1979 when his wife, ill for eight years, died of a drug overdose.

"I started drinking, using drugs, and running wild," said Kraemer, at a recent 5:30 a.m. breakfast in Coahoma County in Mississippi's Delta.

Kraemer, who has undergone some drastic changes since those days, helped supervise a team of teenagers as volunteers to the Brotherhood Commission's World Changers project. A total of 275 teens helped renovate 21 homes in Coahoma and Quitman counties.

He has the look of an outlaw — long hair fashioned into a ponytail and several earrings on each ear. But his life and his outlook are that of a child of God. He even sings in the church choir at First Baptist Church, Acworth, near his home in Woodstock, Ga.

Back then, Kraemer asked his pastor, "Why did God take her away from me?" He said he wouldn't have called himself a Christian then. "I was a good old boy," he said, explaining his spiritual condition.

He was arrested in Tennessee on gun and drug charges and shortly after that was arrested in Georgia in January 1981 after he and another person attempted to rob a bank early one morning — about 5 a.m. Other charges were pending — a total of 44 felony charges, including three assaults with intent to murder. But he made bond.

Back in Tennessee he got four

years on the drug charges and was told if he served a year in the county jail, he wouldn't have to go into the prison system. While driving a dump truck for the jail, Georgia officials came to get him.

He was looking at two life sentences plus 180 years in a Georgia jail when he decided to tell the judge what led up to his behavior. "The judge sentenced me to 22 years, total," he said.

Then Georgia sent him back to Tennessee to finish his sentence there. "I became violent," he recalled. So officials placed Kraemer into a 5' 6" by 7' 4" steel cage in the Coffee County Work House, only allowing him out for an hour on Sunday.

One Sunday a 94-year-old preacher named Elisha Brown visited him to share the gospel. "I cussed him out like a dog," said Kraemer.

"If you don't want to hear it, don't listen," said Brown.

Kraemer said Brown had two firsts for his life. Brown was the first to tell him that accepting Jesus would turn his life around and that "no matter what I did, Jesus loved me." The second was that Brown "was the first man in my life who told me he loved me."

Brown asked if he could pray for Kraemer, and gave him a Bible. "He encouraged me every Sunday," said Kraemer, who in a short time accepted Christ as Savior and Lord. "Immediately I had no more desire for drugs and my temper was gone," he said.

After 367 days in that steel

box, he was sent to Georgia State Prison at Reidsville. "My first morning there I saw a man stabbed," said Kraemer, who, as a former police officer in Georgia, did not relish the idea of mixing with criminals he perhaps had put behind bars. "I think it was the first time I talked to God and the first time I was afraid."

However, he was sent to a trustee building because they needed a coffin-maker in the cabinet shop. The fellow who ran it was a Christian. He helped Kraemer learn how to study the Bible.

Later, sent to a satellite prison, he found himself losing his temper again and he began fighting the prison system. A woman named Charlene, introduced by a mutual friend, told him to pray over a letter he was sending to his sentencing judge. "I did and forgot about the letter," said Kraemer.

Several months later, the judge wrote saying he appreciated the letter and that he realized a mistake had been made — that in sending him across a state line, they had voided his sentence. Both Tennessee and Georgia declined to re-sentence him. "I should have been out five years earlier," said Kraemer. "But God kept me isolated until I learned enough to stand on my own two feet and get rid of worldly ways."

He had said that if released he would commit himself to anything he could to spread the gospel. "That's why I'm so committed to missions. I tell kids that spreading the Word is the whole thing — not

condemning" people.

Kraemer later married Charlene, his pen pal. "She totally supports me though I have only seen her four or five days out of the past five weeks," he said.

"God has taken care of every one of my needs. I only owe on my home, and my small (construction) business allows me to do missions," he said. He gives between one to six weeks a year to missions. "Next year I'm claiming 12," he said.

The Mississippi World Changers project was his second. He had

just finished working in Savannah, Ga., on another one. "This is where I think I can fit in," he said. "I never thought I'd enjoy it, but we had one on our team who accepted Christ Saturday night. These kids float my boat."

Kraemer said that sharing Jesus is the greatest thing a person can do. And he wants everyone to know that God has been with him all along the way. "Every time I slipped," he said, "God put somebody there to catch me."

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.



Laurel youths are World Changers

World Changers from First Church, Laurel, joined more than 300 Southern Baptist youths and their leaders for a June 26-July 3 work project in Briceville, Tenn. Youths participating included Julian Malone, Scott Kennedy, Richard Bush, Lauren Owens, Lindsay Low, Jennifer Coghlan, Meg Barham, Jennifer Gordon, Anna Clinkscales, and Caroline Wittman. Leaders who accompanied the young people included Mike and Dawn Gonzalez, and Karen Coghlan. Work on the 25 projects in the Briceville area included roofing, painting, and building new bathrooms and floors.

New staff structure may be in store for Foreign Mission Board

By Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — A decentralized staff structure may be in the works for the Foreign Mission Board, whose trustees discussed a proposed reorganization of their Richmond-based work force during the board's Aug. 16-18 meeting.

FMB President Jerry Rankin, elected in June, presented a preliminary outline of changes in staff structure he said he is contemplating and hopes to complete in time for trustee action in October.

Highlights of the plan include disbanding the top-level Global Strategy Group, creating a new post called overseas vice president, and permitting more missions strategy to be formulated by missionaries on the field.

In addition, the role of the five regional vice presidents, who administer the work of missionaries around the world, will be changed to an advisory or consultative one. Area directors, who are field-based liaisons between missionaries and regional vice presidents, will report directly to the new overseas vice president.

Assisting Rankin in fine-tuning the proposal is a 10-member committee of staff and trustees appointed Aug. 17 by Rankin and Board Chairman John Jackson.

During their three-day meeting, trustees endorsed the plan in general and gave specific approval to the new overseas vice president's position. A candidate for that spot may

be presented as early as October, Rankin said.

Portions of Rankin's plan are reminiscent of the leadership style of Baker James Cauthen, board president from 1954-79, who gave every mission — the organization of missionaries in each country — the autonomy to devise strategy and draw up budgets.

In contrast, Keith Parks, a missions veteran who succeeded Cauthen in 1980, focused more decision-making in Richmond and created a cabinet of high-level administrators — the Global Strategy Group — to set worldwide policy and priorities.

Rankin resisted direct comparison to his predecessors' styles, maintaining his proposal is an amalgam of both approaches.

"They (Cauthen and Parks) both provided appropriate leadership for their eras," he told reporters. "That's not necessarily the way we need to do things today."

He said his approach will be a careful balance between field autonomy on the one hand and accountability and global vision on the other.

Returning to "field-generated strategies... does not imply business as usual, freedom to flounder, or all fields being treated with equal priority," he said. "However, it is imperative that we recognize the diversity of our world in terms of culture, history, responsiveness, opportunities, and maturity of Bap-

tist work and give local missions latitude to determine the most productive application of personnel and resources."

In place of the Global Strategy Group — which Rankin described as "a time-consuming, centralized administrative forum" — a common global strategy will be devised by "the collective input and consultation of the area directors meeting in Richmond twice a year, representing the fields and area strategies," he said.

In addition, he indicated he and the overseas vice president, along with Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener, would comprise a decision-making triumvirate to evaluate worldwide missions strategy.

Board Chairman Jackson said trustees also would undertake a study of their effectiveness, perhaps restructuring themselves to complement the new staff configuration.

In other action, trustees named 47 new missionaries during their meeting, bringing to 3,958 the total number of mission workers employed by the board.

They also elected two new staff members: Thurmon Bryant as vice president of mission personnel and Clyde Meador Jr. as area director for southern Asia and the Pacific, an administrative unit of 480 missionaries in 15 countries.

Dilday writes for Virginia RELIGIOUS HERALD.

Thursday, August 26, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Mt. Pleasant Baptists go north

Twelve members of Mt. Pleasant Church, Mt. Pleasant, returned July 17 from a 950-mile, four-day mission trip to Michigan. Eddie Holmes, pastor, accompanied three adults and eight youths to East Tawas, Mich., to assist in a Mission Vacation Bible School. The MVBS was held at the East Tawas Baptist Church, which is financially supported by Mt. Pleasant Church. Holmes, who also preached a revival at night at the church, said the team assisted summer missionaries who have been working at the church the last two months. Enrollment at the MVBS reached 14 with an average attendance of 10. Revival attendance reached upwards of 43. Team members did religious survey work in the Lake Huron community of about 3,000, and helped with Bible stories and games. Jim Obrecht is pastor of East Tawas Church.

FMB elects Meador new area director for southern Asia, Pacific

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Clyde Meador, a missionary and mission administrator in Asia for nearly 19 years, was elected area director for mission work in southern Asia and the Pacific Aug. 18 by trustees of the Foreign Mission Board.

Meador replaces Jerry Rankin, who became the board's 10th president in June. Meador, Rankin, and past president R. Keith Parks all started their mission careers in Indonesia.

Rankin put his arms around Meador and his wife, Elaine, as Bill Wakefield, board vice president for Asia, led trustees in a prayer of dedication after Meador's election.

Meador, 48, has been associate to Rankin, based in Singapore, since 1990. As area director Meador will oversee the work of some 500 missionaries in Asia's southern region, which includes India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and 11 other countries. It stretches about 9,000 miles and includes more than 1.5 billion people, the great majority of whom have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, Meador told trustees.



Meador

Bryant elected FMB vice president for mission personnel

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Thurmon Bryant, a 33-year veteran of foreign missions, was elected vice president for mission personnel by Foreign Mission Board trustees Aug. 18.

Bryant has filled that position, which administers the board's missionary appointment process, on an interim basis since

April. He will oversee enlistment, selection, and training of new missionaries and volunteers, partnership missions, "creative access" projects, missionary furlough study, missionary health and board relationships with children of missionaries, former missionaries, and black and ethnic Baptists.

A former missionary to Brazil, Bryant, 63, has been associate vice president for mission personnel since 1987. His portfolio included missionary health and services, volunteers and missionary orientation, and development.



Bryant

BSSB trustees approve record budget, hear reports on products and services

By Charles Willis

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board approved a record \$233.4 million budget for fiscal year 1993-94 and heard reports on a wide range of products and services during their Aug. 16-18 semi-annual meeting at Glorieta Conference Center.

The budget, approved without opposition, is an increase of almost \$20 million above the 1992-93 budget and is approximately \$32 million above projected revenue for the current year.

The recommendation from the trustee business and finance committee included a rationale statement that the proposal "represents the first full year in which the board will operate within the new organizational structure which was implemented in 1992-93." The budget, the committee wrote, "has been developed as part of a new strategic planning process which has been implemented. It includes several new strategies which have the potential to increase revenue significantly as compared to current levels."

The budget is planned to yield a projected \$4.6 million in "funds provided from operations" — financial resources needed to fund future operations and ministries.

In a related report, trustees were

told total revenue for the first nine months of the current fiscal year was \$148.3 million, a \$2.9 million increase over the same period for the previous year. Decreases compared to the previous year were reported in church literature sales (1.8%), and Convention Press (21.5% — due primarily to a reduced level of sales of *The Baptist Hymnal*).

Increases were reported in Life-way product sales (133.5%), Genevox Music (20.8%), conference centers (14.1%), and trade and retail markets (7%). Included in the trade and retail report was an increase in Baptist Book Store sales of 6.4% compared to the same period last year.

In a report on church growth and programs, Vice President Gene Mims told trustees "while the great majority of Southern Baptist churches consistently buy (church literature) from us, they also buy from other providers. This is not an erosion of Southern Baptist loyalty or Sunday School Board loyalty. It is an economic reality."

Mims also presented to trustees the "154 principle" for church growth, with "1" representing the Great Commission; "5" representing church functions of evangelism, discipleship, worship, ministry, and fellowship; and "4" rep-

resenting church results that are spiritual, numerical, expanded ministries, and extension of churches.

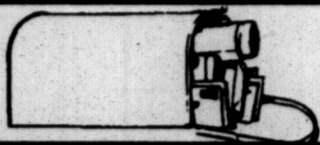
He cited a 9.4% increase in sales of ethnic materials this year, as well as the successes of discipleship- and family-related materials, the overwhelming response of teenagers and their parents to the "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence campaign, and increasing Sunday School enrollment, among indicators that customer needs are being met.

"We have 652 persons in the church growth group working day and night to make church growth a reality," he said.

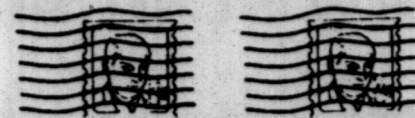
Charles A. Wilson, vice-president for trade and retail markets, told trustees successes are coming through improved performance of the 64 retail book stores and through newly released books and a video project in production.

Wilson said Broadman & Holman's Secret Adventures video series for children is the publisher's "largest project," and that it attracted pre-publication sales of 43,000 at the international convention of Christian booksellers in Atlanta in July. He projected sales of between 100,000 and 125,000 tapes by the time the first episode is released in October.

Willis writes for BSSB.



Letters to the editor



Partnership helps

Editor:

During the summer of 1993 the Mississippi Baptist people working in my association represented God and your convention well.

We had folks serving as interim pastor, working in our Boys' RA and Girls' GA camps, helping construct and remodel some church buildings, and even 10 people came to help do child care for the 48th Alaska Baptist Convention that was held in my association. John Carley from Sumrall said, "I didn't realize that working in child care could contribute so much to a convention."

I want to say, on behalf of my association, "Thank you!" If this is what partnership is all about, Alaska Baptists are in for a treat. Having Bill Hardy working with this alignment is more like a big brother than a partner.

Again I say thank you! Missions is not a place, but people. Wherever you find people, you are on a mission field.

David N. Baldwin, DOM
Tanana Valley Association
Fairbanks, Alaska

Worship from heart

Editor:

How difficult it is to understand comments such as those reported in "Letters to the Editor," Aug. 12, regarding "loud music... loud saxophones... and the loud canned music..." in our worship services today! Gospel quartets, soloists, and choirs have been in our services for generations and many times they are assisted by orchestras. The "loud" *a cappella* of a male quartet is one of the sweetest sounds in the world.

A worship service is a corporate not individual event, intended for the sole purpose of lifting up the name of Jesus. Certain congregational songs or special music are more meaningful to some than others and vice versa. Just as it is harmful to judge the hearts of people by the appearance of their dress, color of their skin, or the number of "Amen's" one does or does not say in the worship service, so it is harmful to say, "I

don't like" this or that because it is different than last week, last year, or personal tradition.

Worship and praise for our Lord Jesus begins in the heart. When we remain focused on ourselves and our personal comfort, we miss many opportunities for the Holy Spirit to draw us near. How many blessings we allow to pass us by as we instead waste our energies on making sure all know what we don't like. Please, let's love one another.

Karl H. Ficken
Hattiesburg

Don't quench fire

Editor:

My wife and I have a Bible study in our home on Monday nights. This past Monday, we were praying for the school year starting the next day, for the "See You at the Pole" effort (a student-led prayer at schools next month), and for other things important to teens. We went over a few minutes and a parent was outside our home, not able to come to the door for her child because she had no shoes on. She was upset because they had to get up early to be at school. My wife was informed that this woman's child could not come back because school was more important.

I see it this way: our kids spend eight hours a day, five days a week, nine months a year, for 13 years to hear teachers educate them in whatever beliefs the teacher deems necessary. Whether it be Hindu, Buddhist, New Age, evolution, or whatever, except Christian beliefs. Now, when that becomes more important than the meeting together and praying and reading and studying the Bible for a couple of hours on Monday night, it seems as though there may be some priorities out of focus.

I relate this story not because of one mother being upset, but because I have seen that the youths of our churches are on fire for the Lord. I want to be one to help build their fire higher and add to it, not be one to help put it out. As adults, we get so wrapped up in work, social life, and running the church. I sometimes wonder if

there are any of us left that would allow the Lord to do miracles without taking it to committee first. Parents, don't put the fire out in your child. The world, school, government, TV, radio, are doing that every day. Be a parent that helps build the fire. You and I as Christian parents, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, pastors (we all are ministers) will one day stand at the foot of Jesus and answer for letting "common sense" get in the way of supernatural sense. Common sense says that school is more important. Jesus says that he is most important.

Robert Allen
Florence

Sounded pro-choice

Editor:

Regarding your July 29 issue, in which you printed an anonymous letter (at least anonymous to your readers), you put forth a position that, although it used or misused Scripture, was certainly unbiblical.

Anonymous would have done well to have heeded his own advice to "Search the Word." The Scripture he used, Exodus 21:22-25, is clearly not talking about the murderous act of abortion, because abortion is a premeditated and willful act. Exodus 21:22-25 deals with "accidental miscarriage" caused by men fighting. The penalty for the accident is not a "minor fee" as Anonymous declared, because it could conceivably result in death depending on what transpires after the miscarriage.

Anonymous also misused Genesis 2:7 when he attempted to prove that a baby is not alive until it draws breath. Genesis 2:7 is the creation account — not birth as we know birth. If God is sovereign, did Adam exist when God breathed into him or was Adam eternally alive in the mind of our great Creator?

This letter smacks of pro-choice, and since it contained biblical warring and you chose to print it anonymously, I question if this is the Baptist position on abortion?

If "perhaps President Clinton is on to something" in the abortion issue; will the next thing we hear

be "perhaps he's on to something" in the homosexual issue?

The editor of a "Christian" newspaper has a responsibility to make sure that error is not taught by the printed word.

Bob Sheppard
Terry

Editor's Note: To my knowledge, there is no such thing as the "Baptist position on abortion." The BAPTIST RECORD has consistently opposed abortion.

Extends invitation

Editor:

Hundreds of students have arrived in Jackson and Clinton to attend Hinds Community College, Mississippi College, or other area colleges. This is an exciting time for these students and an apprehensive time for their parents. Morrison Heights Church cares about students and wants to be their "home away from home."

Through our student ministry, Morrison Heights offers opportunities for service, fellowship, social interaction, Bible study, and worship.

This year, we will host "Freshman Welcome Sunday." On Sunday, Aug. 29, students are invited to join our 9 a.m. worship celebration and then attend our college Bible study hour at 10:30 a.m. Immediately following the Bible

study we invite all incoming freshmen to be our guests for a grilled chicken lunch.

If any of your readers know of students who are in Jackson/Clinton this fall, please call in their names with complete addresses (home and at college) to me at (601) 924-5620. We would love to make contact with these students.

Stan Feener, minister to students
Morrison Heights Church
Clinton

TV show bad news

Editor:

I have been reading and watching the Baptist Record to see if there would be any letters or articles concerning the show "NYPD Blue."

I was thankful tonight to see Bob Rogers' letter in the paper, saying that WLOX-TV in Biloxi had decided to pre-empt part of it anyway.

Our station from ABC is WLOV-TV, but I just hope and pray that ABC affiliates can be stopped some way from showing any of this filthy show. TV is bad enough as it is.

I don't watch hardly any TV because there's nothing that's decent enough to look at.

Thank you, Rogers, for your letter.

Gladys Martin
Hamilton

Camp Garaywa hosts nursing fellowship retreat weekend

Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship will hold a weekend retreat at Camp Garaywa, Clinton, Sept. 10-11.



Hales

Activities will include music, mission awareness, inspiration, prayer, and aerobics.

Program guests for the retreat will be: Graham Hales, chaplain at Forest General Hospital, Hattiesburg;

John McGraw, orthopedic surgeon from Laurel, and national president of the Baptist Medical-Dental



McGraw

Fellowship; Sandra Nash of Clinton, president of Mississippi WMU and former missionary to Ghana; and Pam Smith, water aerobic instructor at Mississippi College.

Guests are asked to bring used

eyeglasses for future mission projects. Registration deadline for the weekend is Sept. 3. Cost of \$23



Smith

per person should be mailed to Camp Garaywa, P.O. 1278, Clinton, MS 39060, by that date.

For more information, contact Ashley McCaleb, WMU office,

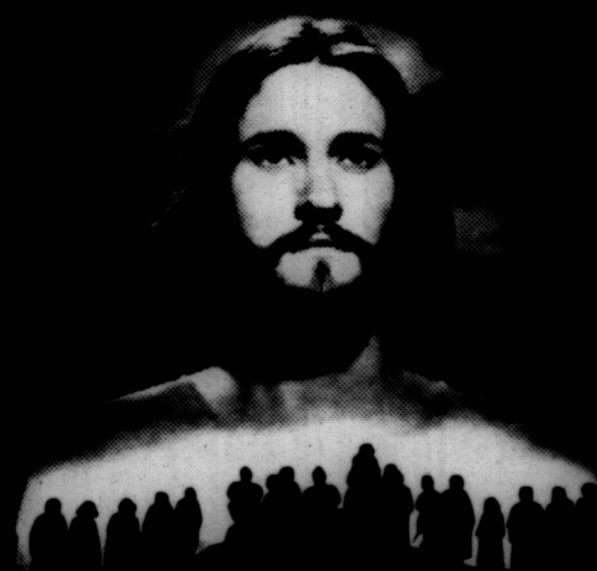
(601) 968-3800.

"The biggest theatrical event of the year!"

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

JESUS
WAS HIS NAME

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: SCOTT SANDERS AND DENISE PETITDIER



The role of Jesus portrayed by Jean Marie Lamour

Tuesday, Aug. 31
7:30 p.m.

Mississippi Coliseum
Jackson

Thursday, Sept. 2
7:30 p.m.

Mississippi Coast Coliseum
Biloxi

In Jackson, tickets are available at Coliseum Box Office and the usual outlets. For ticket and group information, call (601) 353-0603.

In Biloxi, tickets are available at the Coliseum Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by phone: 1-800-488-5252. For group information, call (601) 388-8222.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 26, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

PRAYERGRAM

Aug. 26-Sept. 9

PRAY that the 1990 law on "Freedom of conscience and Religious Organizations" in Russia will not be curbed, and that Christian witness in that area of the world will be able to continue unhindered.

PRAY that the closure of three Christian radio stations in Argentina will not continue to other stations. It has not been possible for broadcasters to get a license, so all stations are at risk.

Pray for missionaries Steve and Debbie Bell in Brazil, that God will direct them in the development of a mobile medical/dental ministry in Rio de Janeiro. Pray for Debbie as she leads in the formation of a medical missionary group of the south Brazil Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

PRAY for Tami Ruchman, director of the Savannah, Ga., Baptist Center. Pray for a pastor of the church that meets in the Center. John Beam, a retired home missionary, is retiring as the pastor.

PRAY for Willie Marques of Needham, Mass., who is the bi-vocational pastor of the Philippine International Church of Boston. Pray for someone to begin a work among the Filipinos in New England.

PRAY for Don Jackson, director of missions of the Central Valley Association in Tutlovk, Calif. There is a need to begin a Hispanic Baptist Church. 125,000 Hispanics live in the area.

THANK GOD for the Concord Baptist Church in Yazoo County, organized 150 years ago. The celebration of this event took place Aug. 1 and a time capsule was buried to be removed at the bicentennial celebration in 2043.

THANK GOD for camp directors and staffs, Vacation Bible School leaders and volunteer summer workers in Mississippi Baptist life. Decisions have been made. Pray for those who made these decisions.

PRAY for leadership training as it takes place for the different departments of Mississippi Baptist life, held during the month of August. Ask God to help Mississippi Baptists to realize that MISSION work begins with trained leaders who are willing to say "Here am I, Lord...put me in whatever place I can best serve." □

"Bridging Life's Span...Focus on the Future"



Hazel Morris

Identifying child abuse, understanding baby boomers with children, and attention deficit disorder will be among the topics of a conference on teaching Christian principles to children. The conference takes place Sept. 10-11, at First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Organizer, Linda Reeves of the Sunday School Department, MBCB, says the meeting is not just for teachers of children, "but is designed for general officers and church staff."

Featured speakers for the Friday evening session after the 6 p.m. banquet will be Hazel Morris, associate professor of childhood education at Southwestern Semi-

nary, and Keith Wilkinson, Director of the Mississippi Sunday School Department. Morris will speak on childhood's future.

On Saturday there will be 21 sessions for staff and general officers. Among these will be: "Crossing cultural barriers to reach families and children, led by Louis and Linda Lamar; Developing an apartment ministry, let by Dottie Williamson; and Pastors leading the church to grow through preschool and children's ministry, let by Randy Tompkins and David Raddin.

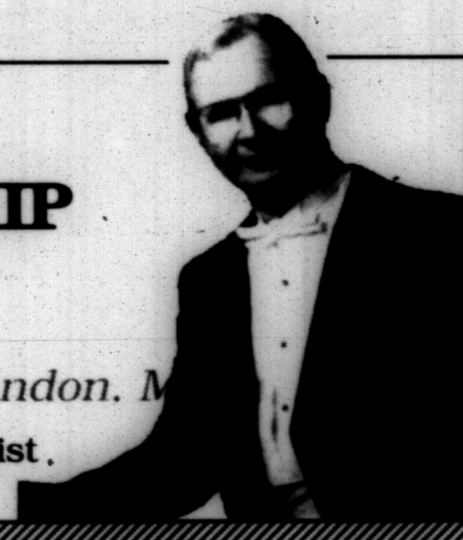
A registration form is on the back page of HOUSETOPS. □

State HANDBELL LEADERSHIP Seminar

Thursday Sept. 23, 1993

First Baptist Church, Brandon, MS

CLINICIAN: Donald Allured, Handbell Specialist, Birmingham, Alabama



BASIC HANDBELL

For beginning and inexperienced directors

9:00 a.m.
to
3:30 p.m.

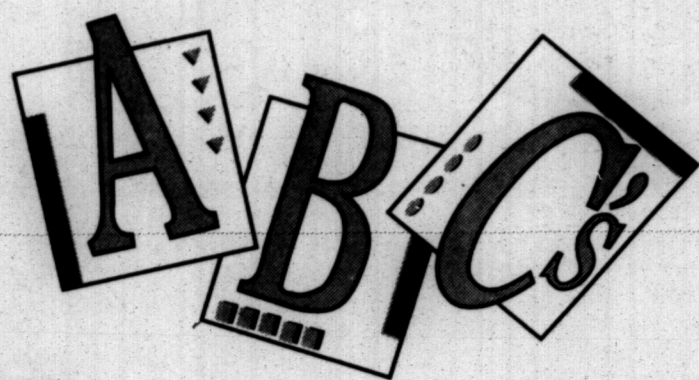
CHILDREN'S HANDBELL/CHIME

For directors of children who have handbell experience and need help working with children.

PROGRESSING AND ADVANCED HANDBELL TECHNIQUES

For directors who are ready to move beyond basic handbell techniques. The classes will prepare the director through a "hands on" experience to lead his/her choir in handling more than just a bell in each hand; the proper use of 4-in-hand, shelly ring, stopped bell sounds (plucking, martellato, mallets, thumb damping) and other techniques that are needed to ring current bell scores.

Donald Allured's manual, *Mastering Musicianship in Handbells* from Genevox will be used in guiding the class "Progressing and Advanced Handbell Techniques." Bring your copy. Copies will also be available at the seminar.



of CHURCH BUDGETING

By David Michel,
Director of Stewardship Department, MBCB

How can we make dollars-and-cents decisions that will lead us to genuine spiritual growth? How can we get our church out of the same fixed-item routine every year? How can we convince old Brother Meanswell to consider a new approach to budget promotion? How can we get the finance committee to be concerned about more than the bottom line? These are difficult questions, which reflect the tension that exists between financial and spiritual ministry. Church leaders today expect the budgeting process to play a meaningful role in the larger ministry of stewardship development.

The *ABC's of Church Budgeting and Promotion* may help satisfy your spiritual expectations for the budgeting process, and it may help your church answer the difficult financial questions of the nineties. The planbook is a release from the Stewardship Commission

offering suggestions for budget promotion in 1993-94. The *ABC's* actually refer to a series of planning meetings, with each letter representing a step in the budget development process.

- A- Advance Planning and Evaluation
- B- Budget Preparation
- C- Cultivating Commitment in Giving
- D- Development Projects for Growing Stewards

• GETTING ACQUAINTED

Several features commend the workbook style publication for church use. First, it is functional in approach. When budget committees meet, they like to crunch numbers. So, the first exercise in the book calls for a four-year analysis of the church's giving history along with goals for next year's budget. But the booklet is also comprehensive in scope, requiring the dollars-and-cents guys to discuss missions and ministry priorities as line items. Comparing a church's financial practices to a "Stewardship Standard" helps church leaders discover the shortcomings of a bottom-line-only approach.

The *ABC's* is a flexible tool, which can be adapted to fit most church situations. It contains everything needed for basic planning, but refers to extensive supporting materials which can be added to enrich a church's budget promotion program.

The methodology recommended by the *ABC's* is relational. The budget committee is asked to include a large number of key church leaders in the advance planning stage of budget development. This encourages blending the concerns of money and ministry, and helps establish priorities in spending and program planning.

• SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

The first letter in the stewardship alphabet is *P* for prayer. Overcoming selfishness is a spiritual struggle which requires lifelong discipline. Church financial difficulties have to do with selfishness and require dili-

gent prayer. Each meeting agenda in the booklet begins with a devotional and prayer suggestion. The supporting tracts, posters, and Bible study materials are written around a biblical theme from II Corinthians 8:7. Mission support has a prominent place in the *ABC's* to remind church leaders that we are under the mandate of Christ through the Great Commission to make disciples all around the world.

• WHAT TO EXPECT

The organizational layout of the planbook features each basic meeting agenda followed by various worksheets and checklists. The book is like a child's busy-box with each planning step calling for interactive response. One page asks the reader to follow the 1, 2, 3s; the next page may ask for fill-in-the-blanks or check-the-box. There is a calendar section and summary pages which overview the two budget promotion programs for the current year. It is designed to keep participants awake, even in the duller meetings.

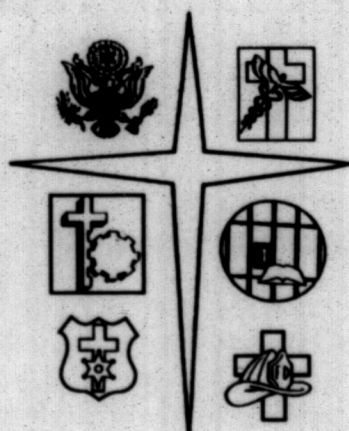
• COORDINATION

The *ABC* calendar runs from July through June, which corresponds closely to budget planning schedules in most churches. Each suggested meeting in the process falls on a time line determined by when the budget is to be adopted. With the *ABC* outline to follow, church leaders can know when to start and about how long each step requires. Appropriate enlistment and training of additional workers can be coordinated easily, once the budget adoption date is chosen.

All in all the *ABC's* offer a basic pattern in church budgeting and promotion which can be followed exactly or customized to fit specific needs and situations. Try it in your church and see if it spells enrichment for your stewardship development program.

Copies of the *ABC Planbook* can be ordered at no cost from the Stewardship Department at the Baptist Building (968-3800). □

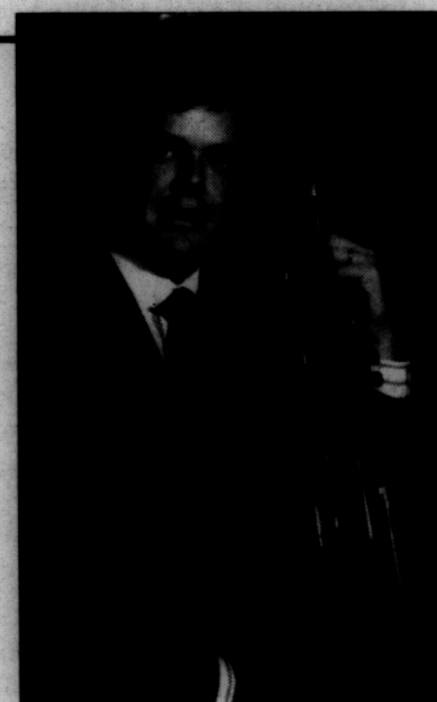
CHAPLAINS TO HOLD LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Chaplains from across Mississippi will hold their annual Leadership Conference at Twin Lakes Conference Center near Florence, September, 10-11, 1993.

John Yates will be sharing "Music from a Heart Touched by the Master," and sharing his ventriloquial figures. On Saturday, the chaplains will experience the Missions Development Simulation Game conducted by the staff of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Officers for the association are: Joe Stovall, president, Drew Blanton, vice-president, and Ray and Joann Bell, secretary treasurer, editor.

Registration for the event can be made through the Cooperative Missions Department, 968-3800, ext.3961. □



JOHN YATES

HOUSE OF



Mid-South School of Evangelism and Church Growth

The Mid-South School of Evangelism and Church Growth will take place at New Orleans Seminary, Oct. 14-16.

This project is jointly sponsored by the MBCB's Sunday School and Evangelism Departments, the seminary, the Home Mission Board, and the Sunday School Board. The program begins at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday and concludes at 12:15 on Saturday.

The program will feature Ken Hemphill, Jim Henry, Charles Kelley, Darrell Robinson, and Lonnie Stewart, who will lead music.

Hemphill is director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth. Henry is pastor of First Church, Orlando. Kelley is associate professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary. Robinson is vice president of the Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board. And Stewart is minister of music at First Church, West Monroe, La.

Cost of the program is \$25. It is designed for both ministers and laity to equip them for total church growth. Mississippians wishing to participate should contact the Sunday School Department at 968-3800. The first group of workshops, Friday at 10:30 a.m., will be on Growing Churches in Your Setting. Participants will go to various sessions relating to their own situation, from open country to inner city, to language groups.

The second workshops, Friday afternoon, concern Leadership Roles for Growing Churches. Separate meetings will be for pastors of various sized churches, for ministers of education, Sunday School directors, Sunday School outreach leaders, for all age group ministers and leaders, for language leaders, and for directors of missions.

The third and fourth workshops at 3:30 on Friday and Saturday at 8:45, will deal with Innovative Approaches to Church Growth and Evangelism.

Mississippians leading workshops include: Joe Armour, Steve Bennett, Matt Buckles, Bob Buckner, Mose Dangerfield, James Fancher, Sean Keith, Linda Reeves, and Randy Tompkins. ☐

TWO BW/BYW RETREATS

BAPTIST WOMEN/ BAPTIST YOUNG WOMEN RETREAT

OCTOBER 8-9, 1993
CAMP LAKE STEPHENS

*Serve in Christ's name.
It's easy to think it,
To say it, to feel it,
But, how do I do it?*



TIME: 4 p.m. Registration—Lunch, Saturday

COST: \$25 per person
Each cabin holds 14 persons . . . 7 on either side . . . with a bath between. Please bring linens, towels, and a pillow.

WHERE: Camp Lake Stephens (Located 5 miles from Oxford. Map will be sent with confirmation).

HIGHLIGHTS

MUSIC: Andrea Mullins, Baptist Women Specialist, WMU/SBC, Birmingham

SPECIALITY CONFERENCES:

Jesus, Wonderful Counselor--Helen Price, State WMU Staff, Jackson
Protect The Children--Kay Cassibry, State WMU Staff, Jackson
The Teen Scene, Minus Drugs--Beth Holmes, consultant, Christian Action Commission, Jackson
Helping Hurting Humanity Panel--Marjean Patterson, Executive Director of State WMU, Jackson
Serving Christ in Belarus--Libby Panter, missionary to former province of U.S.S.R.
Fellowship and Funtime--Jan Cossitt, State WMU Staff, Jackson
Baptist Book Store

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DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 1, 1993

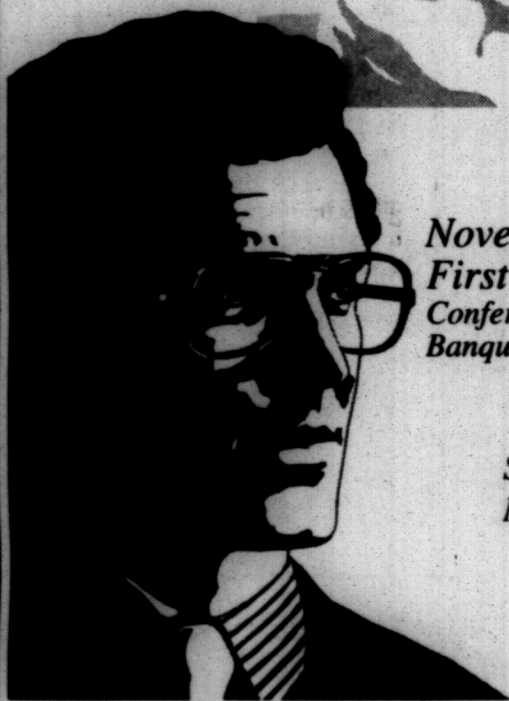
Lay Missions Conference



Marketplace Ministry:
**"Going Into Your
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November 15, 1993
 First Baptist Church, Jackson
 Conference: 3:00 p.m.
 Banquet: 5:00 p.m.

Sponsored by
 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

PROGRAM

3:00 p.m.

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INTEREST CONFERENCES

CART (Crisis Alert Response Training)
 Partnership Missions
 Beginning Intercessory Prayer Ministry
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5:00 p.m.

MISSIONS BANQUET

AND PROGRAM

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Nathan Porter, Home Mission Board
 Hunger Consultant
 and

Jerry Rankin, President, Foreign Mission
 Board (and a Mississippian!)

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 A Conference for Reaching and Teaching
 Mississippi's Future Generations**

September 10-11, 1993
 First Baptist Church, Jackson

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City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Church _____

Association _____

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Friday 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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Materials cost: \$12.50



Hemphill book answers questions of creation, life purpose, evil

By Terri Lackey

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — A recent article in Newsweek magazine reports a new theory of life's beginning — bubbles of seawater.

Scientists gathered in Barcelona for the International Conference on the Origin of Life in July, according to the article. Evolutionist Carl Sagan was there, crediting organic molecules in the atmosphere of Saturn's moon; others reported how comets might have blasted the

Earth with life.

One scientist postulated that "frothy, filmy, iridescent bubbles of seawater served as life's delivery room," the Newsweek article said.

In his new book, *LIFE Answers, Making Sense of Your World*, Ken Hemphill counters various God-less scientific theories of creation with Scripture and a rational Christian worldview.

Hemphill, director of Southern

Baptist Center for Church Growth for the Home Mission and Baptist Sunday School Boards, was preacher for the BSSB's Discipleship and Family Development Conference, July 17-23. He taught from his new book, a LifeWay resource released in July through the BSSB.

LIFE Answers not only addresses the question of creation and systematically addresses various unbiblical theories, it also

speaks to purpose of life, the existence of evil, and final destiny.

In 153 pages, Hemphill offers answers to questions Christians and non-Christians have been asking for years.

"This book was the hardest thing I've ever done," Hemphill said. "Each chapter could be a book in itself."

Because he addresses so many areas of concern, Hemphill

acknowledges the book is not exhaustive in any area. Thus, he added a bibliography at the back for further reading.

One of the main purposes of the book, Hemphill said, is to get Christians to think about their worldview.

"Christians need to understand how they view the world so they can comprehend life and death issues," he said. "They need to interpret that view in terms of their belief and faith in God."

"Most people don't even think about their worldview until a crisis comes," said Hemphill.

Holding a worldview gives substance to a Christian's faith, he said. "It unifies our thought and the way we live."

Christians who have thought about their views on religion in a time when ideologies run the gamut from atheism to biblical theism are not afraid to take their beliefs into the marketplace, he said.

"To have a Christian worldview would make you a more effective witness in the marketplace," said Hemphill, who said he believes the reason only four of 100 Christians witness is because they are afraid of the questions they will be asked and not be able to answer.

Through his book, Hemphill said he has discovered a new way to witness. He no longer asks people he meets if they know where they are going when they die.

He asks them about their religious heritage. He said he then follows up that question with, "Has your religious heritage answered all of your questions?"

"That usually opens the door to talk about creation and purpose of life, or even why evil exists. I am then able to take my book and answer those questions from a Christian perspective."

The leader's kit comes with a leader's guide, a video tape, and Hemphill's six-chapter book. Also available are three, 60-minute audiocassettes featuring Hemphill discussing distinctives of the Christian worldview.

Lackey writes for BSSB.

Nancy McGraw, widow of Karl McGraw, dies

Nancy S. McGraw, 64, died Aug. 13 of injuries suffered in an automobile accident in Crystal Springs. Memorial services were Aug. 16 at Pocahontas Church, Jackson; graveside services were Aug. 17 at McGraw Family Cemetery in Centerville.

McGraw, a native of Louisville, Ky., was a member of First Church, Crystal Springs. Her late husband, Karl McGraw, served as director of properties for the Baptist Children's Village, 1961-91.

She is survived by a daughter, Kaye Rainey of Crystal Springs; a son, Ken of Jackson; foster son, Martin R. Wagoner of Ocean Springs; and two brothers, James Cobert of Indianapolis, Ind., and Robert Knoppe of Shelbyville, Ky.



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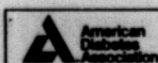
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Names in the News



Mark Mowdy was licensed to the gospel ministry July 4 at New Salem Church, Mississippi Association. Pictured, from left, are Mowdy; David Fortenberry, pastor; and John Paul Jones, director of missions. Mowdy, available for pulpit supply or interim work, can be reached at 657-9279.



Riverhill Church, Itawamba Association, recently honored **S.E. O'Brian** and his wife, Katie Lou, with a Pastor Appreciation Day. O'Brian was called to preach in 1960. He has served as pastor for over 32 years including the past 15 years at Riverhill Church.



Raymond Church, Raymond, recently ordained **Tim Martin** to the gospel ministry. Martin served as minister to students at Raymond Church for three years while attending Mississippi College. He is now attending Southwestern Seminary. Pictured, are Tommy A. Jarrett, pastor; Tim Martin; his grandfather, Oliver Martin, a deacon at West Monroe Church, Monroe, La.; and his father, Oliver Martin, minister of education at First Church, Baton Rouge, La.

For MasterLife alumni...

Winston Association headquarters is site for MasterBuilder course

The Winston County Association Office in Louisville will be the site for a MasterBuilder Workshop, Sept. 16-18. Sessions will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday evenings, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Participants will be certified to lead MasterBuilder groups upon completion of the 14-hour workshop.

MasterBuilder is a 13-unit course of study designed to enable MasterLife alumni to develop qualities of Christian leadership.

"MasterBuilder will be helpful in equipping leaders, training MasterLife group leaders, and training church staff to lead effectively,"

said Mose Dangerfield, director of the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department which sponsors the training.

MasterBuilder units deal with knowing God's will through Bible study, being who God can use through evaluation and application, building character, doing in order to master skills, and developing through feedback.

Interested persons should pre-register with the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department in Jackson or with the Winston Association office, Paul Blanchard, P.O. Box 375, Louisville, MS 39339. The registration fee is \$75. Participants provide their own room and board for the three days.

WMU Mom/ GA retreat set for Sept. 10-11

Camp Garaywa will be the site of a GA Mother/Daughter weekend, Sept. 10-11, from 5:30 p.m. Friday through 2 p.m. Saturday. The weekend is for all 1st through 6th grade GAs and their mothers.

Missionary guest will be Cynthia Martin, missionary to Bolivia. Student summer missionaries will also speak.

Cost will be \$23 per person, which includes meals, lodging, crafts, and limited insurance. Checks may be made payable to Camp Garaywa, P.O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060. Guests should bring their own bed and bath linens.

Contact Kay Cassibry, GA consultant, at (601) 968-3800.

Magee church observes 100th anniversary

Siloam Church, Magee, will celebrate its 100th anniversary Aug. 29. The celebration will begin with the morning worship at 11, directed by Gerald Aultman, former pastor from 1965-68.

Morning services will be followed by dinner in the fellowship hall, and afternoon entertainment by the Bibletones.

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Sept. 15 set for this year's "See You at the Pole" effort

ATLANTA (BP) — Sept. 15 is the date for this year's "See You at the Pole" national prayer effort for youth.

The strategy calls for students to gather around their school's flagpole before school and pray for classmates. Alcoholism, drug abuse, violence, and suicide among teenagers underscore the need for the prayer effort, said Dean Finley, youth evangelism specialist for the Home Mission Board.

Reports indicate 120,000 youth participated in "See You at the Pole" last year, though other estimates reach 250,000, Finley said.

Texas Southern Baptists began the "See You at the Pole" empha-

sis but it is now a multi-denominational campaign.

Rallies on school campuses must be organized and led by students to avoid legal problems, Finley said, noting adults wishing to join the effort should meet off-campus.

To have an ongoing impact, students are encouraged to start or join a campus Christian club to encourage youth in evangelism, Finley said.

Brochures about "See You at the Pole" and how to start a Christian club have been mailed to every Southern Baptist church. Additional copies are available from the Home Mission Board at 1-800-634-2462.

Staff Changes

David Tadlock has been called as minister of youth and recreation by **First Church, Pascagoula**. He is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University and Southwestern Seminary. He previously served for six years as minister of youth in Louisiana and Texas. Rex Yancey is pastor.

Mike Willoughby has been named pastor of **Mars Hill Church, Knoxville, Tenn.** A native of Clinton, he graduated from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He has held pastorates in Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Hepzibah Church, Lawrence Association, has called **Ken Barron Jr.** of Hattiesburg as minister of youth, effective Aug. 8. A native of Liberty, Barron is a student at William Carey College. Jimmy T. Smith Jr. is pastor.

Clarksdale Church has called **Mark Kelly** as full-time minister of youth. He has served the church on a part-time basis for the past year. He previously served

Immanuel Church, Greenwood, as youth minister.

Robert J. Kroll has resigned as pastor of **Flag Lake Church, Sarah**, effective Aug. 22. He will assume the senior pastorate of **First Church, Hollister, Mo.**, effective Aug. 29.

Homecomings

Salem, Tylertown: Aug. 29; 10 a.m.; 110th anniversary; Billy Murphy, Wiggins, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; singing, 1 p.m.; The Magnolia State Quartet, guest singers; Johnny E. Sykes, pastor.

Petal-Harvey, Petal: Aug. 29; 85th anniversary; Larry Kennedy, vice-president of William Carey College, guest speaker for morning worship service; dinner on the grounds will be served; open house highlighting recent renovations and modernization of the facilities will be held along with a fifth Sunday sing; Gerald Buckley, pastor.

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CHURCH ORGAN FOR SALE: Allen TC-1, excellent condition. (601) 948-1875.

NEEDED: CHOIR ROBES, new or used, for small church, (601) 829-1500 after 5:30 p.m.

Palmer scholarships awarded, FBC, Amory

Ron Kirkland, pastor of First Church, Amory, recently announced that three young men of that congregation, who committed themselves to full-time Christian service, have been awarded scholarships from the Lawrence and Louise Palmer Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Chris Crook, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Thomas Crook III, is a second-time recipient of the scholarship. He is a junior at Mississippi College with academic emphasis in church music.

David Everett, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Everett Jr., received a scholarship last year to attend Southern Seminary. He is a second-year graduate student at the seminary with church music as his academic area of concentration. As a graduate student, David

directs the music program of a church in the Louisville, Ky., area.

Dale Funderburg, pastor of Improve Church, Improve, is a second-time Palmer Scholarship recipient. Funderburg, married and a father, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Funderburg of Amory. Before his call to Improve Church, he pastored in Prentiss County. He will attend New Orleans Seminary in pursuit of a master's degree in theology.

The Lawrence and Louise Palmer Memorial Scholarship Fund of First Church was established in 1983 by Dick Palmer, son of the late Lawrence and Louise Palmer. During the past decade, approximately \$50,000 has been awarded to nine recipients from First Church, Amory.

Hurricane Creek observes 80 years

Hurricane Creek, Marion Association, will celebrate its 80th anniversary Sept. 12.

Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m., worship at 10:45, followed by lunch in the fellowship hall at noon, and afternoon service at 1:15.

Services will feature guest speaker W.E. Spencer, former pastor, Dallas Rayborn and B. Alfred Jones will also be on the program. M.L. Wallace is pastor.

VBS Results

First, Potts Camp: Children's Day Carnival; theme, "Summer-shine"; 176 enrolled; Bill Smith, pastor.

Flag Lake, Sarah (Northwest); Aug. 9-13; 429 attended; \$323.30 in pennies collected for flood victims, given to Missouri Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Emergency Fund; Robert J. Kroll, pastor.

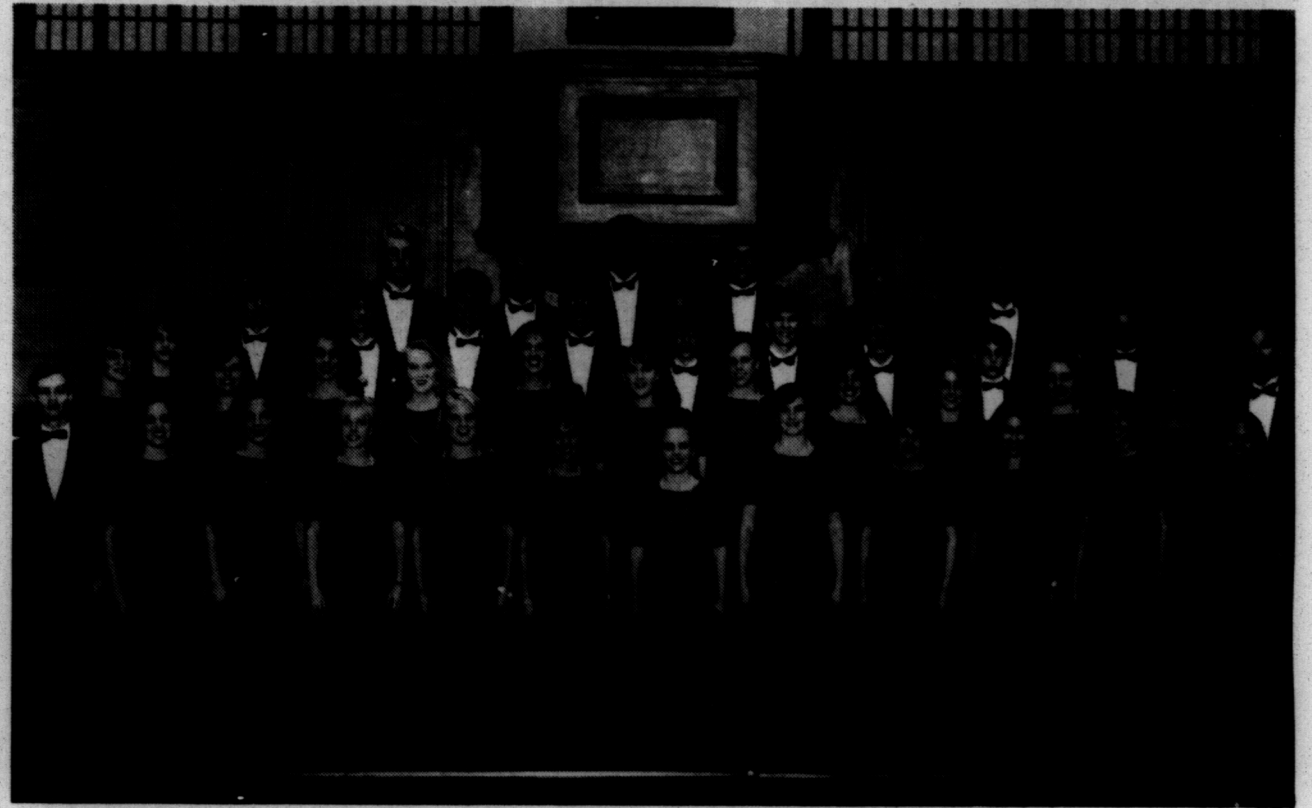
Revival Dates

Morgan City (Leflore): Aug. 29-Sept. 1; Sunday, regular times; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 7 p.m.; H. Van Wheeler, South Hill, Va., evangelist; Olive Thompson, Morgan City, music; Bobby Moore, pastor.

Thursday, August 26, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

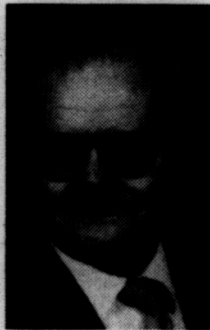
Just for the Record



The 38-voice youth choir of First Church, Meridian, is pictured at a home concert on Sunday evening, July 25. The choir traveled 5,000 miles in two weeks

singing in churches in Texas, Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico. Lee Berg is pastor and Doug Haney is minister of music.

Pine Hill Church, Enterprise, will present a musical program, "To God be the Glory," Saturday, Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29, a dedication service for the new church building and homecoming will be held at 10 a.m. The noon meal will be served in fellowship hall.



Smith

Wanilla Church, Lawrence Association, will celebrate its 85th anniversary on Aug. 29. Sunday School will be held at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. A noon meal will be served followed by a musical service at 1:30 p.m. Stanley Smith of Henderson, Tenn. will be the guest speaker for the morning service. Smith was ordained to the ministry by Wanilla Church in 1943. Eddie Myers is pastor.



Whitesand Church, Prentiss, recognized its GAs on May 16. Pictured, from left, front row, are Ashley Shows and Amanda Shows; back row, Charity Lee, Memorie Shivers, and Nikki McNease.

Brewer Church, Richton, will have a dedication service for its fellowship hall on Aug. 29 at 10:50 a.m. A noon meal will be served in fellowship hall. Michael R. McLendon of Richton will be guest speaker. The new fellowship hall, 60' by 40', will seat 150 people.

Hawkins may succeed Gregory at First, Dallas

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (Compiled from wire reports) — Asking for its prayers, O.S. Hawkins, pastor, told his teary-eyed congregation Aug. 22 that he faces a "monumental" decision on whether to take the pulpit of First Church, Dallas, the nation's largest Southern Baptist church.

Hawkins, who has led First Church, Fort Lauderdale, through 15 years of rapid growth, is an eight-member search committee's unanimous choice to become pastor of the 125-year-old downtown Dallas church, the committee's chairman told the Dallas congregation Sunday.

Applause broke out among the members of the Dallas church when committee chairman Herschel Foster announced the choice of the 46-year-old Fort Worth,

Texas, native. A formal announcement had been scheduled for Wednesday, but news-accounts revealed Hawkins' name.

Hawkins told worshipers at First Church, Lauderdale, that he would preach in Dallas on Aug. 29. His election next Sunday by Dallas church members is considered by some to be a formality, but Hawkins told his congregation, "I'm not 100% sure of what God's will is yet. If it's God's will for me to be the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, it will not be God's will for me to stay here."

If he makes the move, Hawkins would succeed Joel Gregory, who resigned in 1992 saying then 82-year-old W.A. Criswell was unwilling to relinquish leadership of the church.

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Uniform

New strength in the Lord



By Michael O'Brien
Ephesians 6:10-20

The New International Version of the Bible translates verse 10 this way: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." What we need to hear loud and clear from this verse is simple: his mighty power. It is God who provides his mighty resources that empower his people as they struggle daily against the evils of this world. If you only learn one thing from this lesson, learn this: You will never overcome temptation or evil in your own strength.

The Christian's peril (vv. 10-12). Paul's point is that Satan never stops scheming against the children of God. It is his intention that we never be effective in the war that we are engaged in on earth. We declare how we are eventually victorious in the war, but the battles rage on. Often we fail to realize who our enemy is and do battle among ourselves. God is never happy when Christians fight other Christians over whose turn it is to take the offering while the lost die and go to hell. In Satan's scheme of things, that is the plan.

Our battlefield does not include the evil people of the world. Many well-meaning people attempt to fight the people who Satan uses while Paul says, "not to war against flesh and blood" (v. 12). Our battlefield foes include rulers, authorities, the power of this dark world, and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Can the average Christian win?

The Christian's provision (vv. 13-17). I am going to resist the temptation to deal with the spiritual imagery of each piece of the Christian's armor. I would rather we see the spiritual realities behind this illustration that Paul calls to our attention. Note that the armor is complete, as Paul writes, "full armor." God's provisions are always enough. Paul said to the Roman church that we are "more than conquerors" in 8:37. He then tells us that with the full armor of God we can stand and so we should stand and stand firm.

One piece of armor that I will call attention to is the "belt of truth." Everything else fastens on this belt. The other pieces of armor are attached to this belt, so it better be firmly in place. The armor that Paul tells believers to wear has been tested and proved by Christians throughout the ages. Once dressed, reach for your weapons, one for defense and one for offense. The shield of faith is necessary because Satan is going to fire all that he has against any Christian who attempts to get into the battle.

"...All the flaming arrows of the evil one" — These fiery darts were the most dangerous weapon used in ancient warfare, arrows dipped in a combustible material and set on fire before being launched at the enemy. They would not only wound, but also burn any soldier struck. The large shield carried by the heavily-armed soldier was the only protection he had. "Faith" here must be understood as utter dependence upon God.

One offensive weapon in this list of warriors' equipment is the "sword of the Spirit." The reason that it is the only one mentioned is because it is the only one needed. The verse is correctly understood as the sword "supplied" by the Spirit. Paul further states, "which is the Word of God" (v. 17). Jesus made use of the written Word when he confronted Satan in the wilderness temptation. What's good enough for Jesus is good enough for me. What can make the drug addict quit drugs? Get him saved. What can make the thief quit stealing? Get him saved. You fill in the sin, the answer is still the same: get him saved.

The Christian's prayer (vv. 18-20). Paul mentions two areas of prayer: the general and the specific. He tells us how to pray when he declares that we pray in the Spirit. This is not speaking of praying in tongues. Literally, it means "under his influence and with his guidance." He also maintains that we be alert to the needs of those around us and prayerful for all the saints. Paul uses two words, "prayer," which is general, and "supplication" (request), which is petitionary prayer. Paul was a prayer warrior and understood by experience the need for and value of prayer. Paul becomes specific when he asks prayer for himself (v. 19). Paul says: "If I am speaking, let me be witnessing for my Lord." His love for the Lord was so intense, he was happiest when he was talking about Jesus.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book

Christ's followers, opponents



By Jewel P. Merritt
1 John 2:18-22; 3:16-20; 4:1-4

My maternal grandmother would never reveal her age. As I grow older, I understand her reluctance to share that secret. I will admit to being old enough to have seen several "certainties" come and go. There have been some who have gone to great lengths to "prove" that Hitler or Stalin or some other prominent person was the antichrist. Others have claimed to "know" the date of Christ's return. Their carefully calculated dates pass uneventfully. But there have been, and are, far more dangerous teachers. These proclaim themselves to be god or refuse to accept Jesus as God's Son. John wrote to warn Christians of these false teachers.

A warning about antichrists (2:18-22). Antichrist is one who is against Christ or one who says that he is Christ. In this "last hour," the time between Jesus' first and second coming, John said that many antichrists would come. Some of these false teachers (antichrists) denied that Jesus was human. Others said that he was not divine. Evidently, these false teachers had once been a part of the body of believers. They had never known God's saving grace, however, and were not truly a part of the church. John contrasted the false teachers with those who were believers. Believers stay in the church. Staying in the church does not save anyone, but believers are faithful to the Lord.

An appeal to love one another (3:16-18). After he identified opponents of Christ as those who denied him and the Father, John turned his attention to Jesus' followers. All of us are moved when we think of Christ's love as manifested on the cross. Just as a coin has two sides, this great love has two sides also. John said we ought to lay down our lives for fellow believers. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Such love is truly wondrous! Most of us will never be called on to make such a dramatic sacrifice. All of us will share what we have with those in need. Such action is one proof of our love for the Lord.

In 1979 we had a terrible flood in Jackson. As our Sunday School class members worked on one flooded street, an out-of-county pickup truck drove down the street and stopped. The Mennonite men who were crowded into the cab and back of the truck got out, tools in hand, and went silently to work. They didn't know any of the homeowners, but they knew there was a need. That's love in action.

Assurance of one's relationship to God (3:19-20). There is great comfort in these two little verses. Sometimes we are tempted to doubt our salvation. Past sins and failures come to mind, followed by thoughts that surely we cannot be true followers of Christ. John wrote that we can set our hearts at rest when such doubts appear. God is greater than our hearts. He knows all things. He certainly knows his children!

A test to determine truth and error (4:1-4). Christ has followers and he has opponents. How can believers know whether a person is moved by the Holy Spirit or by an evil one? The acid test is the teaching about Jesus. Only people moved by the Holy Spirit confess that Jesus, God's Son, came in the flesh. Teachers who proclaim that Jesus was truly human and truly divine are of God. John comforted his readers by reminding them that victory is assured because the One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world (4:4b). Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work

Live carefully!



By Mark A. Rathel
Dan. 1:8-16; 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1;
Eph. 5:15-18

This study is the annual lesson on alcohol and drug abuse. Research by the Baptist Sunday School Board revealed that an estimated 45% of Baptists drink alcoholic beverages. Christians need to be reawakened to the dangers of alcohol and drugs. According to a 1990 article in *Nutrition Today*, alcohol traumatizes virtually every cell of the body and functions as a toxin on the heart muscle. John LaRosa, chairman of the American Health Association nutrition committee, said, "Even moderate quantities of alcohol can be harmful over long periods." The Bible pre-dates these contemporary nutritional studies in expressing warnings concerning alcohol.

God rewards obedience to convictions (Dan. 1:8-16). Like Daniel and his three friends, Christians live in an environment unsympathetic to faith convictions. The king himself offered the four Jewish young men the best food and wine. Daniel, as leader of the quartet, respectfully requested exemption from the king's offer. While seemingly inconsequential, Daniel saw clearly the issue as one of allegiance and loyalty to God. Because the king wanted the blessings of the pagan gods on his government, all royal feasts celebrated the Babylonian deities. Prior to the feasts, portions of the meat were sacrificed to the gods and wine was poured out as a libation. The king ordered food and wine from his feasts to be given to the Jewish captives. Several factors made the decision of the young Jewish men difficult. The king ordered the menu and disobedience could mean punishment. Daniel and the others were preparing for civil service positions, and refusal to participate in the feasts could hinder their career advancement. The young men were a long way from home; family and friends would not know of their participation. Today, believers who refuse to participate in bacchanalian festivals may encounter ridicule and ostracization.

As Daniel explained the grounds for his request to the two Babylonian court officials, he witnessed to the true faith. The officials respected his request because it was based upon religious principles. God is faithful. He rewarded Daniel. He will reward any act of self-discipline undertaken on the principle of loyalty.

Christians are called to be different (2 Cor. 6:16-7:1). The theme of this scriptural paragraph is the incompatibility of believers and ungodly behavior. Christians are the temple of God, the place where God has chosen to reveal his glory. Because God dwells in his people (v. 17), it is unthinkable that Christians would defile the temple through abuse. The Bible commands Christians to come out from among pagans and be separate. We cannot avoid contact with pagan society, but we are to forsake unclean associations that might lead us to an act of defilement. Paul addressed these words to a church located in a city renowned for sexual and drunken abuses.

This paragraph contains four promises from God: I will dwell in them; I will be their God; I will welcome you; and I will be a Father. God's "I will" demands a proper response from believers. Because of these promises, Christians are to cleanse themselves of any activity that hinders the actualization of these promises. Biblical scholar Ralph Martin commented, "The promise of God's approval and fellowship is based on the Christian's desire and effort to be cleansed."

Be controlled by the Spirit (Eph. 5:15-18). The Lord commands Christians to be careful how they live. The reputation of the gospel is connected to the public behavior of Christians. The issue of alcohol usage, therefore, is a question of Christian testimony in a godless society. Christians are not to be drunk with wine because alcohol results in debauchery. Rather, Christians are to be controlled by the Spirit. A believer controlled by alcohol benefits no one. A believer controlled by the Spirit positively benefits other people.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.



THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

ACCREDITED

P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

May 1, 1993 -
May 31, 1993

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JUNE 1, 1993 -
JUNE 30, 1993

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Ron Davenport, right, enjoys cooling off in the pool on our India Nunnery Campus. The swimming pool has been a popular spot during this heat wave.

Billy Royston, below, who attends Hinds Community College on athletic and academic scholarships, worked as our lifeguard this summer. Billy completed the 2-week Red Cross Life Saving Course in preparation for this position. The course included training in CPR and life-saving techniques. Thank you, Billy, for a job well done! Good luck at college.



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(to be continued)

capsules

VICE PRESIDENT GIVEN EXPANDED ROLE AT SOUTHERN SEMINARY: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Thomas F. Mabe, vice president for development at Southern Seminary since 1987, has been named vice president for institutional advancement. In his new role, Mabe will oversee the seminary's communications and alumni relations functions as well as the school's development activities. Prior to joining the seminary staff, Mabe, 58, served four years as vice president of Baptist Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo., where he was in charge of the hospital's development efforts.

DRAPER: MORE TIME NEEDED TO ANALYZE STAFF REDUCTION: NASHVILLE (BP) — Additional time is needed to analyze a study of corporate overhead costs at the Baptist Sunday School Board, President James T. Draper Jr. announced to employees Aug. 13. Draper earlier had planned to inform employees by Aug. 13 of details of an expected reduction in staffing in two board units, corporate services and finance and administration, encompassing 346 full-time employees. "Fewer than 50 employees will be affected," Draper wrote in his Aug. 13 announcement of a delay in implementation, printed in the daily newsletter for the board's 1,700-plus employees. Draper said he intends for decisions to be made and communicated to affected employees by the end of August.

RECYCLE OLD COMPUTER EQUIPMENT: JACKSON — The Christian Computer and Communications Ministry (C₃M) is seeking donations of used, unwanted, or non-working computer equipment. The equipment will be repaired or refurbished for donation to churches, nonprofit Christian organizations, Christian missionaries, and students who cannot afford to purchase computer equipment. This ministry was organized by Randy Herring, a student at Southeastern Seminary. Herring had a desire to use his 15 years of computer experience for the Lord's work. If you would like to donate used equipment or would like to make a contribution to support the ministry, you may write to Herring at SEBTS, Box 2730, Wake Forest, NC 27587. Herring can also be contacted by phone at (919) 556-7401. C₃M is a nonprofit corporation. The corporate headquarters is located at 1716 Dixie Dr., Jackson, MS 39209.

NEARLY 500,000 FED AFTER CALVIN HORN'S CHALLENGE: ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — Calvin Horn challenged his Sunday School class back in 1978 to feed the hungry each Wednesday for four weeks. In preparing to teach the week's lesson from Isaiah 58, he discovered a promise: "If we feed the hungry and care for the poor God will take care of us." He decided "to claim it." The four-week challenge has since become the Noon Day Ministry of First Church of Albuquerque, which began in the church's fellowship hall and now has its own building and board of directors. To date, the ministry has fed and ministered to nearly 500,000 people.

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY V.P. RESIGNS OVER FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES: KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Sam T. Switzer, vice president for business affairs at Midwestern Seminary, resigned effective Aug. 15 following disclosure of financial mismanagement involving the use of seminary credit cards. The inappropriate financial transactions were discovered through the seminary's own internal accounting procedures. A special audit by the auditing firm of Baird, Kurtz, and Dobson was requested by the seminary's president, Milton Ferguson. The audit revealed the amount in question was less than \$15,000 over a two-year period. The full amount has been repaid and no further action is anticipated by the seminary. Following Switzer's acknowledgement of his financial irregularities and after his initiation of rehabilitative therapy, his resignation was accepted by Ferguson, with the approval of the executive committee of the board of trustees. Switzer joined Midwestern's staff as director of financial services in July 1981. He became business manager in the fall of 1982. He was elected vice president for business affairs in April 1986 by the seminary board of trustees.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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COF KRZEZ COZSRIRF BLT, ZCQLOP, LW LZ SIL-
WWRO, WBCW TCO ZBCAA OVW ALYR DQ DIRCF
CAVOR, DEW DQ RYRIQ SVIF VX PVF.

AEMR XVEI:XVEI

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Nine:Twenty-Three.

Emphasis on abstinence earns support, cautions

By Mark Baggett

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP) — "I'm not an ice queen. I'm human like everyone else," says Amie Beth Dickinson, the fourth runner-up in the Miss Alabama pageant, discussing her commitment to sexual abstinence.

"It doesn't mean I'm not tempted. It doesn't mean I'm not attracted to guys. But they know I'll never pressure them into any situation."

Dickinson, 20, a senior at Samford University, a Baptist school in Birmingham, Ala., is one of a number of young people who have made a public commitment to abstinence.

Recently many Southern Baptist youths across the country likewise have made vows of abstinence in youth rallies and church services as part of a national campaign sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. The program, called "True Love Waits," has attracted national attention.

Though not a part of the program, Dickinson supports the choice of abstinence. She explained her personal reasons for taking a stand:

"I'm adopted. And adoption is often the last option in a series of decisions young girls make about their lives. My biological mother was 17 years old, scared and alone, pregnant, and unmarried. Don't get me wrong. I'm very grateful to be here. I'm grateful she chose adoption. But because of that, I'll never know her."

Dickinson, a public relations major at Samford, said she decided to speak out after seeing the pressures of the sexual revolution on her peers. She said she has never had a negative reaction to her platform.

"People are skeptical at first," she said. "Why would a 20-year-old talk about abstinence? When I speak to inner-city groups, I tell them I know where they are coming from. My mom was 17 when she had me."

"To middle-class groups, I'm

not threatening because I'm one of them.

"Not everybody has heard that side, that it's OK to wait. I've spoken at Auburn University, and people were coming up afterwards saying they were glad I said what I said."

One of the lessons of the trend toward abstinence is that Southern Baptists can't assume their children are immune from sexual activity, said Samford professor Lane Powell.

Powell, chair of the Family and Consumer Education Department at Samford and an author of books on teenage sexuality, said studies have shown the level of sexual activity at Southern Baptist colleges is almost the same as in the general population.

"In doing seminars for Southern Baptists, I never assume the young people there are abstinent," Powell said. "I do think that a strong religious commitment encourages a delay in sexual activity and that a sizable group chooses to be abstinent."

"But my experience with kids is that no one really prepares them for the intensity of emotions that occur when they get involved in a close romantic relationship. Yes, you really mean it when you take a vow of abstinence, but you may get in a situation where your hormones take over."

Powell supports the "True Love Waits" program because it sends a positive message and encourages self-discipline, and also because the taking of vows is a long-standing practice of the Christian church.

But Powell worries about those teens who can't keep the pledge, she said. They may become doubly guilty and more self-deprecating, an image that could affect their future relationships.

"I hope we can add an element of grace and of realism," she said. "Sexual decision-making is not all physical. There is a big emotional component. Teens so much want

to be accepted by their peers, and kids who have not had much affection or love at home want acceptance even more."

Powell also hopes the vows of abstinence will not remove parents and churches from their roles in sex education. She discusses those roles in a six-part videotape series that features her and her family called "Generation to Generation: Teaching Christian Values about Sexuality in the Home and Church," which is available from the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"One precaution is that we cannot assume that we don't need to explain birth control and how the act of conception takes place," she said, adding that sex educators have long taught the virtues of abstinence as part of a broader program.

"Church-related young people are less likely to use contraceptives when they become sexually active," she warned. "If we concentrate only on abstinence, we leave them in ignorance, and we leave them to be vulnerable."

For young people bombarded by images of sexuality on television, the commitment to abstinence must be reinforced often, said Dickinson.

"I still feel the pressure for girls to be skinny and perfect and for guys to be attracted to you," she said. "But you have to have a balance. To too many people appearance is everything. I may spend an hour working out, but I don't devote all my time to how I look. On TV, the message is the opposite."

Making a vow of abstinence is not without its consequences, however. She broke up with a boyfriend of two years, partially over her commitment. Since then, however, she's had plenty of different dates, she said. "I'm the safest girl any guy could go out with," she explained.

Baggett is with the ALABAMA.

How to Become a Christian

Acceptance. Everyone wants to be accepted — to feel in. You probably know what it takes to be accepted by friends. But have you ever thought about what it takes to be accepted by God?

Consider what the Bible teaches:

1. God loves you. — John 3:16; 10:10.
2. You are a sinner in need of forgiveness. The Holy Spirit makes you aware of your sin. — Romans 3:23; 6:23; Hebrews 9:27.
3. God wants to forgive you. — Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18.
4. You must turn away from your sins. — Luke 13:5; Ephesians 2:8-9.
5. You must place your faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ. — Acts 20:21; John 14:6.
6. You can receive Jesus Christ through prayer. — Revelation 3:20.

Through prayer, you can:

Admit to God that you are a sinner and that you are turning from your sins. Believe in Jesus by thanking him for dying on the cross and rising from the dead for your sins. Commit your life to Jesus by asking Him to come into your life as your Savior and Lord.

After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a Christian friend and follow Christ in believer's baptism and church membership.

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SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

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